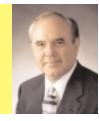


## **State Senator Robert Garton District 41**



## RENEWED PURPOSE TO MARK 2002 VETERANS DAY

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the cessation of hostilities in Europe marked the end of World War I. In the years to follow, November 11 was remembered throughout the U.S. as "Armistice Day" in honor of the Allied soldiers who served and died in what was known then as the "Great War."

In 1954, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, "...in order that a grateful nation might pay homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed to the preservation of this Nation...." stated the proclamation signed by President Dwight Eisenhower. Americans have commemorated Veterans Day for nearly 50 years by participating in and attending ceremonies held at countless schools, city halls and court houses across the U.S.

More than half a million residents of Indiana proudly count themselves as veterans. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the numbers of Indiana citizens who served their country in times of war total:

- Vietnam, 178,000;
- World War II, 128,000;
- Korea 88,000; and
- Persian Gulf War, 55,000.

The number of surviving World War I veterans in Indiana is about 10, according to the VA.

Warfare has been transformed since the two world wars. Today, our enemy is difficult to identify. The enemy infiltrates our borders for the express purpose of causing harm and death, triggering fear and creating economic chaos. It is an enemy which cares not whether its victims are members of the Armed Forces, civilians going about their lives or children enjoying play time.

On the Statehouse lawn, a new memorial dedicated this September 11 contains a quotation from President George W. Bush on 9/11/01: "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings but they cannot touch the foundation of America."

As President Bush has said time and again, this is a new and different kind of war. It will be won day by day in small victories, he said, but it will be won.

On this Veterans Day, let us share the president's resolve. Take a moment to thank our veterans for the sacrifice they made to preserve freedom. At the same time, remember the men and women on active duty today who are or soon may come into harm's way to once again defend the freedom we cherish so dearly.

Garton represents District 41, which includes Bartholomew County and portions of Johnson and Shelby counties.

## **Straight from the Senate**

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